per cent of investible resources during Eighth Plan are to be spent on development programmes falling under rural sector which would provide benefits for the upliftment of the rural masss.

(b) Details in this regard would be incorporated in the Eighth Plan document of the Central and State Governments.

Ganga Action Plan

2250. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 396 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 8th May, 1990 and state :

(a) whether Government are satisfied with the progress of Ganga Action Plan ; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor and what steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) While there may have been some delay due to special circumstances in some of the schemes, Government is satisfied with the overall progress of the Ganga Action Plan.

(b) Does not arise.

"Harmful Pesticides"

2251. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) which are the pesticides harmful in nature ; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The Central Insecticides Board under the Ministry of Agriculture has registered 123 pesticides for use in India. The harmfulness of these pesticides depends on their toxicity and persistance. Pesticides which are biodegradable are less harmful than those which are persistent.

(b) The following steps have been taken by the Government to ensure safety of the environment due to the use of pesticides :

(i) The Government of India has regulated the use of harmful pesticides. The use of DDT, Chlorbenzilate, DBCP, Toxaphene, PNCB has been banned in agriculture. The use of BHC has been restricted to the present level. The use of Sodium Cyanide, Captan and Captafol has been restricted.

(ii) The Government has reviewed the status of the use of biocides in the control of pests and field trials are in progress.

(iii) Detailed instructions have been prescribed for safe use of pesticides.

(iv) Due emphasis is given for the training of farmers and spraymen to ensure safe application of pesticidies.

Application of Minimum Wages Act to the employees of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan

2252. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA :
DR. BAPU KALDATE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1788 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th March, 1990 and state :

(a) whether the provisions of the Minimum Wage Act apply to